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*Did you know*



*That much before the Wright Brothers, an  
Indian had already made a successful flight?*



### **LITTLE KNOWN FIRST INDIAN (POWER) FLIGHT**

**Extract from “London News” Vol.28 No.7 dated Sat. 16 Feb, 1974**

Very few are aware of a reportedly successful flight by an Indian in a plane of his own design and manufactured from the stands at Bombay’s Chowpatty in 1895, a good eight years before the Wright Brothers’ historic flights... The Indian Icarus was one **Bapuji Shivkar Talpade**, a Maharashtrian resident of Dukkarwadi in Bombay’s Cheera Bazar. He was a Sanskrit scholar especially well versed in the Vedas. He taught at Sir J.J. School of Art and had besides a scientific bent of mind... Mrs. Talpade was an engineer. With her help and an architect friend, Mr. Talpade designed and constructed a plane based on the mantric formulations (*Treatise Bharadvaja and Rigveda X 190*). Talpade’s plane was exhibited at the Town Hall under the auspices of the Bombay Art Society. Encouraging response spurred him on to further research specially in the use of mercury and solar energy for power units.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *People’s Manifesto*, vol.X-1, June 1999, p.38, New Delhi